

A summary from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on
July 30, 2013 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Derek at the Westfield City Services Center: communications@westfield.in.gov or (317) 804-3013 if you have any questions.

July 30, 2013

Agenda

- Introductions of attendees
- Q & A with Chief of Staff, Todd Burtron
- Traffic regulations by Ken Alexander, Public Works Director
- Vectren - Free Furnace Check and Seal Program
- Legislative Summary and overview from the State House of Representatives by Rep. Steve Braun
- Wrap up and announcements by Jim Ake



I. Welcome

Jim Ake welcomed everyone and introduced himself. The room went around and introduced themselves one at a time.

II. Q&A with Todd Burtron, Chief of Staff

Mayor Cook was out of town this week, so Todd Burtron, Chief of Staff filled in. Burtron has been with the City of Westfield since 1996 and in the Chief of Staff role since 2011.

Before the Q and A began, Todd announced that permit filings are up over 70% compared to last year. He was proud of the fact that the City compares itself to the private sector in terms of efficiency and not being wasteful with funds.

Q: Assessment went up 2.2%+. What is the City doing to lower the tax rate, understanding the schools are a large chunk of that?

A: We are not the driver of the overall tax rate. There are a lot of other factors. If we lowered, homeowners would not feel the relief due to tax caps. Where we can feel it is through the schools reducing their rate. However, there are other things that will help the City lower the rate (i.e. Econ. Dev.).

Q: Do you have a fix of the average increase for assessments on home?

A: No

A summary from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on
July 30, 2013 at 7 pm.

Q: How do you come about of a cash balance of \$4mil?

A: It takes \$22 million to run the city. We receive half of the \$22 million from assessment. The rest comes from other taxes - cigarettes, excise tax, river boat tax, etc. We control expenses and don't spend every dollar we get.

Q: Can I access Council Meetings online?

A: Not currently. There is a significant capital investment to get video and web feed going. IT is working on getting audio by year end. For those interested in obtaining council meeting audio, contact the Clerk's office. Their phone number is 317-804-3022 or you can visit their offices at City Hall.

Q: Are there any new announcements about Grand Park?

A: Yes, Bulls already have a robust schedule, tournament play to begin in March. Grass growing, turf installed, lights installed. Vertical structures will soon be installed (dugout, concessions, etc.). Econ. Dev. Activity is busy with hotels, specifically two. Grand Park Village is active in discussions with restaurants.

Jim will look into creating a Grand Park tour for the August 27th meeting. An email will be sent out announcing the tour.

Q: Will the City be prepared from a public safety standpoint when Grand Park opens?

A: Yes. Police Chief Joel Rush comes from Speedway Police who have a good amount of knowledge on handling large crowds. The City is being calculated in how we meet demand for police and fire in the future.

Q: Is the City's park department going to be in charge of managing Grand Park?

A: No, a management group will be in charge. The stakeholders, Indiana Soccer and Indiana Bulls will handle all programming and field maintenance.

III. Traffic Regulations by Ken Alexander, Public Works Director and Rob Kmetz, City Engineer

Director of Public Works, Ken Alexander and City Engineer, Rob Kmetz presented on how traffic regulations are created for safe roads within the City.

Ken opened by explaining how a road speed limit is decided upon. Rob spoke about speed limits in different parts of the community and why they are set at certain speeds. He also addressed problem areas where speed limits might be too slow or too fast for a given street.

An outline of their presentation, along with some street counting information can be found here:

http://www.westfield.in.gov/egov/documents/1375967019_45052.pdf

A summary from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on July 30, 2013 at 7 pm.

Q: Can a speed bump be installed at Clarks Hill Way in Countryside?

A: We already have a speed bump being installed in front of the clubhouse. We will take a look at speeders on Clarks Hill Way. First step would be to contact Police to patrol the area.

Q: Has the City considered making detour routes along US31 inaccessible for large trucks?

A: Yes, a plan is already in place and ready to put in front of the City Council.

Q: 161st and Grey needs improvement. Cars are not visible at stop sign

A: The City will look into improvements

Q: 161st Street and Monon Trail is dangerous for cars and bikers/walkers. Are there any guidelines in place for speeds or lighting on signs warning drivers of pedestrian traffic?

A: City is currently complying with federal standards.

Westfield Public Works wants your input about speed limits in Westfield. Click on the link below to begin the short survey:

<http://bit.ly/14o5G9I>

IV. Vectren Free Furnace Check and Seal Program – Bob Graham, Energy Outfitter

Bob Graham, from Energy Outfitter explained a free furnace check and seal program that is free to Westfield residents. Below is the program information and contact:

Free Duct Sealing*



PO Box 67
Westfield, IN 46074
www.myenergyoutfitter.com

800-613-1594

Air Sealing ♦ Insulation

* Rebate funds limited, available on first come, first served basis. Conditions apply. See reverse for details.

To receive free duct sealing you must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be a Vectren natural gas customer.
2. Have a ducted forced-air furnace.
3. House must be smaller than 2000 sq. ft.
3. Ductwork must be in unconditioned space (i.e. an unfinished attic, crawlspace, or basement)

Too good to be true? No. Here's why:

The utility regulatory commission allows utilities to earn a profit from their conservation activities, which are funded by a portion everyone's utility bills. The program is paid for by money you have already spent.

\$400 instant rebate on duct sealing completely covers the cost of homes up to 2000 square feet. Additional charges will apply for larger homes. This program does **NOT** include repairing broken ductwork.

A summary from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on
July 30, 2013 at 7 pm.

IV. Legislative Summary from State House Rep. Steve Braun

Indiana House Representative Steve Braun presented a legislative summary from the past couple months. Steve represents District 24, which covers a good portion of Westfield. Below is a link to his presentation and summary:

http://www.westfield.in.gov/egov/documents/1375812099_74256.pdf

Q: Is there any way to get rid of the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF)? Who supports them?

A: He hears complaints of the DLGF a lot. He will look into the details of the department. Certainly there are inefficiencies with their process.

Q: Are there any Indiana cities waiting to file bankruptcy – like Detroit?

A: No major cities, some small towns with no effect on taxes. Gary is in hard times, but has a strong tax base.

Q: Is there a concern for energy and coal in Indiana?

A: Yes. IURC looked at a recent case. Indiana is 93% coal fired. Wind resource beginning to become more popular and viable for Indiana.

Q: Has the state optioned its 10th Amendment rights on energy resources?

A: Yes

Q: Has there been cooperation with Glenda Ritz on education reform?

A: Indiana hasn't done a good job with education and newer opportunities would help regardless of who the superintendent is. We won't progress until teachers are held accountable.

Q: Is state money used to subsidize ethanol?

A: No, all federal money which is frustrating.

A summary from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on July 30, 2013 at 7 pm.

V. Wrap up Announcements, Jim Ake

The WeCAN group will be holding the August 26th meeting at Wellbrooke of Westfield for a tour of the Grand Park Sports Campus. The group will meet and park at Wellbrooke (937 E. 186th). After a couple announcements and food, we will load up a bus and tour Grand Park. We will begin promptly at 6pm.



The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, August 27, at 6pm** at the **Wellbrooke of Westfield Facility located at 937 E. 186th Street.**

If you have any topic suggestions or issues that you have questions on, please don't hesitate to contact us at communications@westfield.in.gov. For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN Website: www.westfield.in.gov – under the “Community” tab